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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
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OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Elements for the draft declaration: Progress report presented by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee

The attached progress report reflects informal consultations conducted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee during its second session. It aims at facilitating analysis by the Preparatory Committee of the elements, tone and style of the draft declaration.

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INTRODUCTION

1. We, Heads of State and Government, for the first time in history have gathered in Copenhagen, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, to give the highest priority to the betterment of the human condition, now and into the twenty-first century.

2. We acknowledge that the people of the world have signalled in different ways an urgent need to address profound social problems pervasive in all societies. People:

(a) Cannot live and work in peace and in harmony with one another and with their environment when a large part of humanity lives in widespread poverty;

(b) Cannot accept the indignity, suffering and waste of so many men, women and children caused by a lack of productive employment and livelihood;

(c) Cannot make our societies places of creative energy and collective prosperity when the capacity of individuals and groups of different cultures, gender, races, economic conditions, interest and aspirations to live in harmony is so fragile.

3. We want to capture the unique opportunity offered by the end of the Cold War to launch a new era of cooperation that puts the needs and aspirations of people at the centre of our decisions.

4. To this end, we commit ourselves to this Declaration and Programme of Action.

PART I

CURRENT SOCIAL SITUATION AND REASONS FOR THE SUMMIT

1. The past 50 years have seen unprecedented progress but also unspeakable misery; a globalization of prosperity is accompanied by a globalization of poverty.

2. Globalization, which is a consequence of enhanced communications, greatly increased trade and capital flows and technological developments, opens new opportunities for development and growth of the world economy. At the same time, the rapid process of change and adjustment results in inequality and processes of marginalization, both within countries and also among nations. The challenge is how to manage this process in a manner that enhances its benefits and mitigates its negative effects on people.

3. There has been progress in some areas:

(a) The wealth of nations has multiplied sevenfold in the past 50 years and trade has grown even more dramatically;

(b) Life expectancy has increased in the majority of countries, and average infant mortality in developing countries has been reduced;

(c) Advances have been made in literacy and primary education and in the expansion of pluralistic and democratic institutions.

4. Yet we recognize that many people in the world are affected by growing distress:

(a) Within many societies and between industrialized and developing countries, the gap between the rich and the poor has increased;

(b) There are serious social problems and problems of transition in countries experiencing fundamental and democratic changes in their political systems;

(c) More than 1 billion people in the world live in abject poverty, and more than half go hungry every day; a large proportion of men and women, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, have no access to income and resources;

(d) Over 120 million people world wide are officially unemployed, and many more remain underemployed; too many young people have no hope of integrating into their society through productive work;

(e) People in all countries increasingly face vulnerability, isolation, marginalization, violence and insecurity about the future - their own and their children's - as poverty, unemployment and social disintegration are affected by events and circumstances throughout the world.

5. We know that poverty, lack of productive employment and social disintegration represent a waste of human resources, a failure of markets and societal institutions and processes, and an offence to human dignity. We can only continue to hold the trust of our people if we make their needs our priority.

6. Our challenge is to build on the lessons learned and successes achieved, to develop a new culture of cooperation and social progress, to respect our ongoing commitments, to respond to the immediate needs of those who are most affected by human distress, and to establish a people-centred framework for social development to guide us now and in the future. We are determined to meet this challenge and promote social progress throughout the world.

7. All these problems are global in character and affect all our countries in various ways. Yet, we clearly acknowledge that the situation of developing countries, and particularly Africa and the least developed countries, is critical and requires special attention; we also acknowledge that countries undertaking fundamental social and political changes require the support of the international community.

PART II

PRINCIPLES, COMMON VALUES AND GOALS

8. We, Heads of State and Government, are committed to an intellectual, spiritual and ethical vision for social development based on human dignity, equality, respect, mutual responsibility and cooperation. Accordingly, we will strive to create a framework for national and international actions that:

(a) Places people at the centre of development and the economy at the service of human needs;

(b) Respects the need for global human well-being and productive life, fulfilling our responsibility for future generations and protecting the integrity and sustainable use of our environment;

(c) Incorporates the interdependence of economic and social, public and private spheres of activity, integrates economic and social policies so that they become more mutually supportive in the interest of the well-being and dignity of all mankind, and addresses the underlying causes of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration;

(d) Promotes human dignity, social justice and solidarity at the national and international levels; ensures tolerance, non-violence, pluralism and respect for cultural, social and political diversity;

(e) Respects and enforces the right to development and other universally established human rights; promotes rights and responsibilities ensuring social progress and security for all, the search for the common good and harmonious relations between human beings and our planet; promotes equality between men and women;

(f) Supports progress and security of mankind as a guiding principle whereby every member of our global society is enabled to satisfy basic human needs and to realize personal dignity, safety, creativity and potential. It also means creating safe homes and safe streets, safe working conditions, and finding peace within and among nations;

(g) Establishes good governance with integrity, respect, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in all public and private institutions; ensuring that the choice made by Governments, entrepreneurs, members of the civil society and non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, other community organizations, members of international organizations and financial institutions, trade unions and, ultimately, all citizens of the world, support the long-term well-being of people everywhere;

(h) Invites all actors to express their personal commitment to enhancing the human condition in their own actions;

(i) [Encourages] the improvement of community participation and self-reliance, which contribute socially and economically to a higher quality of welfare and productive life for all, since renewed forms of cooperation and partnership at all levels and among all actors of the development process are necessary to achieve social progress;

(j) Enables and empowers all people, particularly the poor, to participate in the decisions affecting their lives and societies, based on trust, reciprocity, involvement and mutual support.

PART III

COMMITMENTS

9. On the basis of our common vision for social development, we undertake the following commitments in full respect for national sovereignty and policy priorities:

Commitment 1

We commit ourselves to promoting social progress and enhancing the human condition, and to giving it the highest priority in national and international policies and efforts.

To that end we shall:

(a) Promote an equitable distribution of income and access to resources through policies geared towards greater social justice at all levels;

(b) Facilitate a resumption of growth of the world economy and better access of developing countries to markets, productive investments and technologies, with due consideration for the needs of countries with economies in transition;

(c) Develop a global compact whereby all Governments, institutions of the United Nations system, international development agencies and multilateral development banks pledge to work for continuous sustainable progress in attaining core goals agreed by the Summit;

(d) Address, through various forms of cooperation, global problems and threats such as communicable diseases, organized crime, drug abuse, drug trafficking and related criminality, and terrorism.

Commitment 2

We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, in the shortest period possible, by decisive national actions and international cooperation, as a moral and political imperative of humankind.

To that end at the national level, we shall:

(a) Commit ourselves to formulating national, specific, time-bound commitments to eliminating extreme poverty;

(b) Focus our efforts and policies on the satisfaction of basic needs for all with regard to food security and the elimination of malnutrition, primary health care and voluntary family planning, safe drinking water and sanitation, universal primary education, adequate shelter and access to information and knowledge;

(c) Review national budgets and adjust them to meet, on a priority basis, these basic needs;

(d) Develop and implement policies for ensuring that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, child-rearing, disability and old age;

(e) Give special priority to the needs of women and children.

At the international level, we shall remove all impediments to the attainment of this commitment in a sustained manner and ensure that all international institutions, particularly the multilateral development banks, assist developing countries and other countries in need in their efforts towards the achievement of our overall goal of eliminating poverty and ensuring basic social protection.

Commitment 3

We commit ourselves to enabling all people to earn livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment, self employment and other forms of work.

We commit ourselves to retaining full employment as a general goal.

To those ends we shall:

(a) Put the creation of employment at the centre of the strategies and policies of Governments, private enterprises, and international organizations;

(b) Promote labour-intensive investment and commit ourselves to appropriate outlays and technologies to make employment strategies productive and sustainable;

(c) Give particular importance to youth employment and reduce their unemployment to the national average;

(d) Expand work opportunities and productivity by means such as investing substantially in human resources, especially through the provision of education and health care, by encouraging self employment and small enterprises, and improving access to credit, information, training and infrastructure;

(e) Ensure that workers have the training facilities, skills and abilities needed to adapt to changing technologies and labour markets.

We shall, also, at the international level:

(a) Devote ourselves to formulating macroeconomic policies that foster long-term sustainable economic growth, open markets, well distributed global investment and greater export opportunities for developing countries;

(b) Devote ourselves to the goal of ensuring quality jobs in full respect of ILO conventions.

Commitment 4

We commit ourselves to promoting social integration by fostering inclusive, participatory, just, safe and stable societies for all people. Social integration requires the elimination of all forms of discrimination, the sharing of basic values and respect for pluralism and diversity.

To that end, we shall:

(a) Resolve to ensure that effective laws and agencies exist to prevent discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, religion, age or disability;

(b) Recognize fully the inherent rights of indigenous peoples and the need to adopt specific strategies to develop greater respect for cultural diversity and for the needs of refugees and migrants;

(c) Ensure the protection of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and individuals, including elderly people and people with disabilities;

(d) Promote the full participation of all in the formulation and implementation of decisions affecting the functioning of our societies and the well-being of individuals;

(e) Given the importance of communication and information for social integration and the respect of diversity, promote an understanding and awareness to ensure that the present system of national and international television includes space for public television, which is neither government-controlled nor exclusively profit-oriented.

Commitment 5

We commit ourselves to achieving full equality between men and women and to enhancing the contribution of women to social progress and development.

To that end, we shall:

(a) Eliminate all obstacles to gender equality and promote a full participation of women in the betterment of societies;

(b) Establish objectives and measurable goals to reduce gender differentials, since gender equality is a component of all policies directly relevant to the objectives of the Social Summit;

(c) Ensure the ratification, removal of reservations, and implementation of all the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant instruments;

(d) Promote changes in attitudes, policies and practices that prevent full gender equality and full participation of women;

(e) Ensure gender balance in decision-making and the implementation mechanisms of public policies.

Commitment 6

We commit ourselves to promoting the economic, social and human development of Africa and all least developed countries.

To that end, we shall:

(a) Provide a solution to the debt problem;

(b) Take special measures to facilitate trade;

(c) Increase official development assistance for social programmes and promote public and private investments;

(d) Ensure the implementation of the strategies and measures for the development of Africa decided by the international community and African organizations.

Commitment 7

We commit ourselves to making structural adjustment programmes socially oriented and non-detrimental to the weakest.

To that end, we shall:

(a) Commit ourselves to reviewing the negative impact that structural adjustment programmes have on social development on a country-by-country basis, reducing their negative effect on social development, and integrating poverty

reduction and gender equity objectives into those programmes. The first priority is to protect basic social programmes and expenditure from across-the-board budget reductions; appropriate changes in the policies of the Bretton Woods Institution will be necessary;

(b) Ensure that all adjustment policies, including those resulting from periods of transition, globalization and rapid change, take into account social objectives and the need to protect the weakest segments of societies. The support of regional and international organizations is required;

(c) Request the United Nations to review the impact on economic and social development of structural adjustment programmes, and request the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other multilateral development institutions to use social-impact assessments and other relevant methods to ensure a significantly greater focus upon issues of social development and basic human needs.

Commitment 8

We commit ourselves to generating sufficient resources to achieve our objectives and fulfil our commitments for social development.

To that end, we shall:

(a) Ensure that taxation systems are progressive, based on larger contributions from those people who have a greater capacity to pay, and ensure that tax liabilities are collected efficiently and fairly;

(b) Further ensure that tax systems obtain adequate and equitable contributions from business enterprises, in addition to private citizens, in ways that discourage speculative activities and enhance activities which are genuinely productive and employment-oriented.

Commitment 9

At the international level, we commit ourselves, within the framework of strengthened international cooperation, to improving the international economic environment and to improving international financial assistance.

To that end, we shall:

(a) Ensure that the supply and utilization of international financial assistance for developing countries is improved substantially, especially for the purposes of eradicating poverty and improving the situation of marginalized and vulnerable groups;

(b) Commit ourselves to striving for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for overall official development assistance, within a time-frame to be set by each country, and endeavour to increase the share of funding for social development programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of this Declaration and its Programme of Action;

(c) Maintain the agreed timetable for implementation of the Marrakech trade agreements and request a report by the World Trade Organization to the Economic and Social Council about the impact of trade liberalization on progress made in the developing countries in meeting basic human needs and about areas of further liberalization which need special attention in order to assist those countries;

(d) Ensure urgent implementation of existing debt-relief agreements and negotiate further initiatives to eliminate all debts of severely indebted countries at an early date. In the field of international cooperation and international financial assistance, attention must be given to the needs of the countries with economies in transition;

(e) Develop effectively the framework for international cooperation in economic and social issues which was agreed to in the Charter of the United Nations, including the role that was envisaged for the Economic and Social Council;

(f) Promote an international economic environment that encourages long-term investments and enterprises which are productive, create jobs, are socially responsible, and respect the environment;

(g) Ensure that the existing international regime of human rights instruments, which already imposes binding obligations in relation to many key aspects of social development, is applied more widely and effectively;

(h) Require that the agreements made at this Summit are effectively facilitated and monitored at the national and international levels, and that further initiatives are then agreed;

(i) Schedule a second World Summit for Social Development to review progress with implementation of this Summit's agreements and to agree on further initiatives, as necessary.

10. The measures to implement the objectives and commitments proclaimed in this Declaration and to be taken by our Governments, international organizations and all other actors in the development process are detailed in the attached Programme of Action.